

HB 3335 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Action Date: 04/13/17

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Alonso Leon, Bynum, Heard, Johnson, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman, Whisnant

Exc: 1 - Clem

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to develop plan for enabling community colleges to offer associate's degree completed in coordination with credits earned in registered apprenticeship or training program that is minimum of four years long. Requires plan to ensure participation in apprenticeship or training program will satisfy any mathematics requirement needed to obtain associate's degree, clearly state additional general education requirements needed to obtain associate's degree, ensure accelerated college credit programs count towards satisfying additional general education requirements to obtain associate's degree and ensure participation in the program is available to individuals who completed applicable apprenticeship or training program in previous years. Requires HECC to submit report containing plan and proposed legislation to legislative interim committees on higher education by December 1, 2018. Specifies additional report requirements. Sunsets on January 2, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of credentialing apprenticeship and training programs for apprentice, employers, parents and state
- Rigorous math and science coursework required by training programs in trades
- Appropriateness of HECC as entity to consider proprietary curricula and to recommend plan

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds requirement that report include number of additional associate's degrees expected to be earned each biennium under program. Deletes requirement that report include recommendation regarding whether program should be implemented.

BACKGROUND:

Apprenticeship programs combine classroom-based technical education with on-the-job learning experiences in construction, industrial and manufacturing trades. Apprenticeships can range from one to six years, but the majority are four years in length. The classroom portion of an apprenticeship program is typically 144 hours per school year, equating to one or two classroom evenings per week. The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries reports that in 2016, 4,346 Oregon employers offered apprenticeships and 8,026 Oregonians were active apprentices in the trades.

In Oregon, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and community college district boards both play a role in the approval of associate's degrees and oversight of curricular programming. Currently, relationships vary between registered apprenticeship programs and community colleges. Some apprenticeship and training programs occur in partnership with community colleges, including holding the classroom-based technical training on community college campuses. Other apprenticeship and training programs and community colleges offer similar but competitive programs. The transfer of credits from an apprenticeship or training program to a community college, for credentialing purposes, is currently inconsistent throughout Oregon.